

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Official Action of September 25, 2007 in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants have amended the claims of the instant application in order to more precisely define the scope of the present invention, taking into consideration the outstanding Official Action. Claims 1, 4 and 11 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 10-16 and 19-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Double Patenting Rejection

The provisional rejection of claims 1-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of copending 10/982,932 has been addressed by submitting the attached Terminal Disclaimer filed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 USC 112, 2nd Paragraph

These rejections have been addressed by amending claims 1 and 11 to recite the **different terminal devices for different users, as suggested by the Examiner**, and in particular that personnel of the debug request form generating department select instructions for execution **only** on a first terminal device, the manager of the department selects instructions for execution **only** on the second terminal device, and the engineer selects instructions generated for execution **only** on a third terminal device. In addition, the independent claims now recite the **fourth path points to a generated fourth state or work finishing state, as suggested by the Examiner**, with dependent claim 4 having been amended for consistency with the amended independent claims.

Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite a workflow defining system, comprising a state setting module, an instruction generating module and a

path generating module. The state setting module at least sets a request form generating state, a debug department manager state, and a debug engineer state. The instruction generating module generates a sending instruction, a receiving instruction and a returning instruction, and a debug completing instruction for the request form generating state, the debug department manager state, and the debug engineer state, respectively. The path generating module generates a first path, a second path, a third path, and a fourth path according to the sending instruction, the receiving instruction, the returning instruction, and the debug completing instruction to a generated fourth state *or* a work finishing state. Personnel of the debug request form generating department select instructions generated for the request form generating state, for execution, *only* on a first terminal device. A manager of a debug department selects instructions generated for the debug department manager state, for execution, *only* on a second terminal device. A debug engineer selects instructions generated for the debug engineer state, for execution, *only* on a third terminal device. As a result, each different user works only on a particular terminal device that is different than those of the other recited users.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 11 based on the Examiner's suggestion to recite that a workflow managing system comprising at least three terminal states, at least four instructions, and at least a fourth path. The three terminal states comprise a request form generating state, a debug department manager state, and a debug engineer state. The four instructions comprise a sending instruction, a receiving instruction and a returning instruction, and a debug completing instruction. The sending instruction, the receiving instruction and the returning instruction, and the debug completing instruction are set according to the request form generating state, the debug department manager state, and the debug engineer state, respectively. The four paths comprise a first path, a second path, a third path, and a forth path. The first path, the second path, the third path and the fourth path are generated according to the sending instruction, the receiving instruction, the returning instruction, and the debug completing instruction, respectively, and the first path points from the sending instruction to the debug

Appl. No. 10/738,068
Reply to OA of: September 25, 2007

department manager state, the second path points from the receiving instruction to the debug engineer state, the third path points from the returning instruction to the request form generating state and the forth path point from debug completing instruction. The request form generating state having the sending instruction, the debug department manager state having the receiving instruction and the returning instruction, and the debug engineer state having the debug completing instruction are shown on a first terminal device, a second terminal device, and a third terminal device, respectively, so that the sending instruction, the receiving instruction, the returning instruction or the debug completing instruction is selected to be executed.

The above amended phrases convey that certain personnel are assigned to a specific terminal device with the ability to select instructions, limited to the associated terminal device and state, as required by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are based on the Examiner's suggestion and clearly supported by the Application as originally filed, including, e.g., paragraphs [0035]-[0038] and Figure 5.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in the instant application are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Appl. No. 10/768,068
Amendment dated: June 22, 2007
Reply to OA of: March 22, 2007

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Urcia', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA
Registration No. 33,805

Date: December 26, 2007

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500